



EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 2/14/2011  
HB 136

## Great Falls Public Schools

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February 10, 2011

Representative Scott Reichner and  
Members of the House Education Committee  
Montana State Legislature  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Representative Reichner and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: PROPONENT FOR HOUSE BILL 136 TO GENERALLY REVISE SCHOOL FUNDING**

Please accept my apology that I was unable to attend the meeting of the House Education Committee yesterday as I was unavoidably detained in the Salt Lake City airport due to a missed connection between flights, and I missed the entire event.

I wish to lend a perspective on the school funding bill.

There is no question that education today is the single most important brick our society can lay in its foundation for our country's future. There is also no question that schools are contributing in the effort to achieve greater productivity on a daily basis by working harder and smarter to educate all students even as resources decline.

While House Bill 136 does not meet the current budget needs for the Great Falls Public Schools, this District has been willing to adjust its expectations in light of current economic reality. That said, we cannot in good conscience abdicate the responsibility to do the best by our students that is possible. The Great Falls School District has cut four million dollars from its budget over the past three years, and by our calculations, this bill would provide only \$1.7 million of the \$3.0 million needed to maintain the existing education program.

In summary, although House Bill 136 is not perfect, we support the concept and remain confident that its difficulties can be addressed with some additional work.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Crawley, PhD  
Superintendent

Cc: Vice Chairs Kristin Hansen and Edie McClafferty

Representatives

Bryce Bennett  
Mark Blasdel  
Joanne Blyton  
Christy Clark  
Lila Evans

Sue Malek  
Jonathan McNiven  
Jean Price  
Daniel Salomon  
Bob Wagner

Ted Washburn  
Jeffrey Welborn  
Franke Wilmer